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THIRD COMMITTEE
18th meeting
held on
Wednesday, 16 November 1994
at 6 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 18th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. BIGGAR (Ireland)

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* Items which the Committee has decided to consider together.

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The meeting was called to order at 6.15 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 105: REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS (continued) (A/49/336; A/C.3/49/3)

AGENDA ITEM 108: PROGRAMME PLANNING (continued) (A/49/6 (Prog. 35); A/C.3/49/2)

Programmes 25, 26, 35, 36 and 37

1. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that at the current meeting the Secretariat had circulated written comments of delegations on the proposed revisions to programme 35, "Promotion and protection of human rights", which had been received since its 12th meeting. They consisted of a joint statement by Canada, Australia and New Zealand and a statement and proposed amendments by Cuba.

2. Mr. FERNANDEZ PALACIOS (Cuba) said it was his understanding that the purpose of the current meeting was to hear a summary by the Chairman of the views already expressed at the 12th meeting or subsequently submitted in writing.

3. The CHAIRMAN said that the elected Chairman would present a summary of the debate and of all written comments on programme 35 in due course.

4. Mr. SUTOYO (Indonesia), speaking on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, said that the countries on whose behalf he was speaking would submit their written comments on programme 35 the following day. The Chairman's letter to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee must clearly reflect the fact that there were divergent views in the Third Committee concerning the substance of the proposed revisions to programme 35.

5. Mr. KHRYSKOV (Russian Federation) expressed his delegation's gratitude to the Secretariat for having translated the decisions adopted at the World Conference on Human Rights into practical programme language and said that, on the whole, his delegation supported programme 35.

6. Mr. KUEHL (United States of America) requested the Secretariat to provide a summary of the cost of convening the current meeting. It was his impression that it had been convened for the purpose of continuing a substantive discussion. However, what had transpired thus far was procedural in nature and could have been handled through members of the bureau.

7. Mr. FERNANDEZ PALACIOS (Cuba) requested the Secretariat to prepare a report based on the views of delegations concerning the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and indicating the basis on which the revisions to programme 35 had been elaborated. Some delegations considered that they were not in keeping with the guidelines set out in the Vienna Programme of Action and relevant resolutions. Document A/49/6 (Prog. 35) offered a futuristic interpretation that bore no relationship to the Vienna Declaration.

8. Ms. MURUGESAN (India) said that the statement to be prepared by the Chairman should reflect the views, albeit divergent views, of all delegations and should contain a clear recommendation from the Committee.

9. Mr. REZVANI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the concern expressed by the United States representative regarding the necessity of convening the current meeting was understandable. The difficulty could be attributed to the absence of a clear agenda.

10. It had been his own delegation's understanding that the Chairman was to have presented a summary of the oral and written comments of delegations for consideration at the current meeting. However, that stage clearly had not been reached yet.

11. The CHAIRMAN pointed out in reply that it had been the understanding of the Secretariat that further substantive statements would be made at the current meeting. He urged delegations which still wished to do so to submit their comments in writing as soon as possible.

The meeting rose at 6.40 p.m.